

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 AF-10

DRC-01 /161 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7746

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RO, XF

SUBJ: CEAUSESCU TRIP: COLD SHOWER IN SYRIA?

1. FROM FEBRUARY 18-19 ROMANIAN PRESS COVERAGE HERE, CEAUSESCU'S VISIT TO SYRIA APPEARS MARKEDLY LESS SUCCESSFUL POLITICALLY THAN HIS PREVIOUS MIDDLE EAST STOPS.
2. ALTHOUGH PROTOCOL WAS POLITE, COOLER TONE MOST OBVIOUS FROM TOASTS BY CEAUSESCU AND HAFEZ AL-ASSAD. LATTER AVOIDED SLIGHTEST NOD OF APPROVAL OR RESPECT FOR GOR POSITIONS AND INSTEAD MILITANTLY LECTURED AT SOME LENGTH ON "SWINDLERS AND FALSIFIERS" OPPOSED TO SYRIA'S "LIBERATION" STRUGGLE WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY EXEMPTING CEAUSESCU FROM THOSE MODERATES ALLEGEDLY BEMUSED BY THEM.
3. CEAUSESCU SEEMED TO RECIPROCATE, FALLING BACK TO LANGUAGE STANDARD BEFORE CURRENT GOR CONCENTRATION ON ARAB CONNECTIONS; HE FAILED TO MAKE EXPLICIT RECENT GOR SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN STATE AND RETURNED TO RECENTLY RARER PHRASE "ASSURANCE OF INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY" FOR ALL

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STATES OF REGION (TACITLY INCLUDING ISRAEL). CEAUSESCU POINT-

EDLY EXPRESSED HOPE FOR SYRIAN-ISRAELI MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT,
CALLED FOR SYRIA TO JOIN GENEVA TALKS, AND ADDED
APPARENT DIG AT END OF TOAST TO EFFECT THAT SYRIA SHOULD
SETTLE DOWN TO PEACEFUL PURSUITS ONCE ITS OCCUPIED TERRITORY
"LIBERATED."

4. WE NOTE THAT CEAUSESCU MET PRIVATELY WITH HAFEZ TWICE.
UNLIKE CEAUSESCU'S ONE PRIVATE MEETING WITH LIBYA'S QADHAFI,
FEBRUARY 19 ROMANIAN PRESS ACCOUNT STRUCTURED SO AS TO AVOID
SPECIFICALLY CHARACTERIZING PRIVATE SESSIONS AS CORDIAL, WHICH
ALSO MAY INDICATE STRAINS.
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